

# AMUSEMENTS

## *YOU OWE TAX ON AMUSEMENTS IF:*

You are operating an amusement business within the city. (Mesa Tax Code 5-10-410)

Transactions between related companies or persons are taxable by the City of Mesa. See Mesa City Code Section 5-10-100 for the definition of a "Person", Section 5-10-210 "Determination of gross income: transactions between affiliated companies or persons", and Section 5-10-220 "Determination of gross income: artificially contrived transactions".

Examples of taxable amusement activities include, but are not limited to:

- Exhibitions, movies, operas, theaters, concerts
- Shows of any type or nature, public dances, dance halls
- Carnivals, circuses, fairs, amusement parks, animal rides, menageries
- Bowling, billiards, skating
- Golf, tennis, batting/driving ranges
- Coin-operated amusement machines
- Sporting events, races, contests, games
- Any business charging admission for exhibition, amusement or entertainment

## *TAX RATE ON AMUSEMENTS*

The City tax rate for Amusements within Mesa is 1.75% of the taxable income.

## *COLLECTION OF TAX*

You may choose to charge the tax separately on each sale or include transaction privilege tax in your price. If you over charge any tax to your customers, you must remit the excess tax to the city.

If you include tax in your price, you can use factoring to calculate the tax included in your gross sales.

For example, if you make a sale for \$100, tax included, and the tax is 8.05% (the combined City, State, and County tax rate), your tax calculation is:

Price excluding sales tax	=	\$100/1.0805	=	\$92.55
Mesa City Tax	=	\$92.55 x .0175	=	\$ 1.62
State & County Tax	=	\$92.55 x .063	=	\$ 5.83
Total City, State & County Tax			=	\$ 7.45

## *OTHER SITUATIONS*

### *A. COIN-OPERATED AMUSEMENT MACHINES*

Gross income from electronic games, pinball, and other coin-operated machines is taxable. No deduction from gross income is allowed for commissions or equipment rental cost.

The person responsible for paying the tax is the one who has direct control over the funds generated by the machines.

Commissions received for the placement of these machines is taxable as licensing for use of real property.

### *B. PROGRAMS/SOUVENIRS*

Gross income from the sale of programs and souvenirs is taxable as retail sales.

### *C. FEDERALLY EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS AND PROPRIETARY CLUBS*

Amusement activities directly conducted by these organizations are generally exempt from tax. Amusement activities, which are conducted on behalf of these organizations by outside franchisees and concessionaires, are not exempt from tax.

### *D. PRIVATE CLUBS*

Fees for recreational facilities open to the public, such as golf courses, swimming pools, and tennis courts, are taxable.

### *E. BALLOON RIDES, BUS/JEEP TOURS, RAFTING, HAY RIDES*

These activities are taxable if the origination point is in the City of Mesa.

*This publication is for general information only about Transaction Privilege (Sales) Tax on amusements. For complete details, refer to the City of Mesa Privilege & Excise Tax Code and related regulations. In case of inconsistency or omission in this publication, the language of the Tax Code will prevail. The transaction privilege tax is commonly referred to as a sales tax; however, the tax is on the privilege of doing business in Mesa and is not a true sales tax.*

## **FOR LICENSING INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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